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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

3. All hospital wards, especially those for internal diseases, are currently overcrowded. There is a variety of reasons for this condition, among which is the fact that the general practitioners are overburdened with patients and are therefore prone to send ambulatory cases to the hospital to lighten their own load, and that many people attempt to become admitted to the hospital in order to obtain a legal excuse for absenteeism from work. One of the major causes, however, is that there are insufficient institutions for the incurably diseased and the aged. Such patients who have no one to care for them have therefore glutted hospital wards, internal disease wards particularly. Many patients who have a justifiable claim to hospital admittance must be turned away.
4. Most physicians still maintain a private consulting practice, although a small minority have given up private practice and entered a physicians' cooperative. Privately practicing physicians are paid for their services only in accordance with the number of National Insurance certificates received from patients in the quarter for which they are valid. The doctor is furthermore paid only for one visit even though the patient requires further treatment. (4) A physician's traveling expenses when treating bedridden patients in their homes are also met through standardized, lump sum allowances, regardless of the number of home calls the physician may be required to make.
5. Physicians, all of whom are required to keep the number of patients unable to work at an absolute minimum and to prescribe the cheapest and smallest quantity of drugs possible, also act as factory doctors for about two hours each morning. (5) In the latter part of the morning each physician holds his private consultations, seeing an average of 70 patients. During the hours from noon to 8 P.M. the doctor visits bedridden patients at home, contributes several hours working for a dispensary or public consulting office performing public health inspections, and again holds private consultation for an average of 70 more patients. After 8 P.M. he makes evening house calls. (6) In addition to these normal duties, each physician is also liable to emergency call, which also includes any surgical stitching required after delivery since midwives may not perform surgery in any form. (7)
6. Any general practitioner can be employed as a factory doctor, for which he receives 1,500 Kcs monthly for about 6 hours a week's attendance at the plant. A factory doctor is expected to perform two medical functions: preventive and curative. His preventive activities are the more heavily stressed by the regime and consist of supervision of health conditions in the plant, hygiene and research on the materials with which the workers must come in contact in order to determine and eliminate or otherwise neutralize harmful characteristics. This duty suffers because his time largely consumed by his curative function. The factory doctor's curative activity is concerned with keeping the workers from visiting a doctor of their own choice in order to keep absenteeism at the lowest possible level. (8) Plant medicines are purchased collectively through the District National Insurance Offices.
7. Chief hospital physicians, the so-called Primarius who are generally the older physicians in the hospital and, in addition to the hospital director, are those in charge of departments and sections, receive a salary of about 13,000 Kcs to 14,000 Kcs monthly. (9) Assistant hospital physicians, the so-called Secundarius, received a gross salary of 5,000 Kcs monthly plus bonuses for specialized or extra work prior to July 1950. (10) When the 500 Kcs physicians' salary raise was introduced in July, however, all bonus pay was abolished. This actually had the effect of a salary cut since most hospital assistant physicians now earn less than before the raise. A second raise of 500 Kcs for the assistant physician depends upon the recommendation of his chief physician.

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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

8. Full and exclusive specialization is permitted, only in key fields such as pediatrics, eye, nose and throat, gynecology and nerve diseases, which fields are considered medical bottlenecks. (11) Permission to specialize requires an application submitted to the Ministry of Health plus the recommendation of the Employees' Council, the hospital trade union group comparable to the Factory Workers' Councils. In practice such permission is granted only to politically reliable applicants. (12) Except for surgeons, gynecologists and internal disease specialists, who must have two years of hospital work, the successful applicant is not required to fulfill the full hospital internship requirements demanded of the potential general practitioner. (13)
9. There are still many very capable Czech and German nuns doing hospital nursing, although their numbers are inadequate, but they are to be replaced by civilian nurses. (14) Expulsion of German nuns is again under consideration despite a lack of nurses in some areas and a shortage of really skilled nurses almost everywhere. However, it is anticipated that should that be done those with special qualifications such as operative nurses will nevertheless be retained. The present civilian nurses, who are generally unskilled because of too short and rapid a training course, are selected from the domestic servant class and given six months' ward training. This sort of training reflects itself in many ways, but especially in the new-born infant mortality rate, particularly among premature infants. Furthermore, the ill-trained civilian nurses have been the cause of new-born infant injuries and infections, in many cases, due to ignorance and poor hygienic habits in the nursery.

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- (1) Comment: Except for emergency cases, patients are admitted to hospitals only after consulting a physician and receiving his recommendation for hospitalization. The university clinics are at Charles University in Prague, which also has branches at Pilsen and Hradec Kralove, at Brno University and at the university in Bratislava. At present there are also several other types of hospitals not mentioned here or in the text, but they are merely of a transitional nature and are ultimately to be abolished.

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- (2) Comment: The Public Health Office, which is one of those organs of the National Committees authorized to perform the myriad functions allocated to the National Committees, is ultimately subordinated to the Ministry of Health in medical matters, but in matters of personnel the Public Health Office is responsible to the Ministry of Interior.

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Comments:

- (3) The Institutes of National Health consulting offices for pregnant women, children, tuberculars and venereal diseases, which offices are now established in the district and regional hospitals, may be expanded, to include sections for dipsomania, hormone disorders and cardiology. Comment: It is unclear what the present relationship is between the functions of the consulting offices of the National Insurance Offices, which is a public sickness insurance institution, membership in which is now believed to be obligatory, and the consulting offices of the Institutes of National Health, a public health institution. Both are apparently under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Offices, and it is believed that the Institutes of National Health consulting offices are fundamentally concerned with social work and problems in their medical implications, whereas the National Insurance Offices' consulting offices concentrate on diseases of a non-social nature. It might be noted that the National Insurance Offices were formerly called the Sickness Insurance Offices, by which title they are still often popularly designated.)

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25X1A

-4-

- (4) It has been rumored physicians will soon be paid set salaries by the state for services in private practice in lieu of the present practice where income varies according to the number of patients. However, a patient may choose the physician he wishes to have attend him, but may not thereafter seek medical attention from any other doctor within any given quarter except under special circumstances such as removal to a new city. The patient is issued his National Insurance certificate by means of which the physician collects his fee by his factory doctor.
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- (5) [REDACTED] there is a trend to prescribe patent drugs produced by the Czechoslovak pharmaceutical industry, Spofa, which in 1951 became the sole Czech pharmaceutical corporation having absorbed the East Bohemian Plants at Rybitvi (051 M69) and Slovakoфарма at Bratislava (Pl9 X99) - rather than compounded drugs prepared by druggists.
- (6) A physician must be on duty each night at each of the District National Insurance Offices also, for which service he is not allowed any compensatory time off the following day. He is supplied with an automobile and driver during this night duty.
- (7) Prior to the end of 1950 midwives received 500 Kcs for each delivery from the National Insurance Office, the pregnant mother choosing the midwife she preferred. Since 1 January 1951, however, each midwife receives a set 3,000 Kcs a month, is assigned an area of responsibility out of which she may not practice, and is required to work a stipulated number of hours a week in an OB consulting office. ([REDACTED] Comment: 25X1A
25X1X [REDACTED] presumably she works in the examining room) Formerly the midwife was paid additionally for service rendered at an OB consultant's office.
- (8) It is often the practice among the workers to take off the whole day whenever they are able to visit a private physician of their own choice and plead that a long waiting line at the doctor's office prevented them from returning in time to work.
- (9) Because of taxes these chief hospital physicians (Primarius) are on the whole giving up private practice.
- (10) Before July 1950 surgeons and x-ray specialists received an additional, non-taxable 800 Kcs monthly, while night duty netted an additional 100 Kcs and Sunday duty 200 Kcs (only half of which was taxable) amounting to an average of 400 to 600 Kcs additional each month. In such wards as OB and pediatrics, however, where constant, special night service was maintained, the physician was able to earn up to 1,500 Kcs monthly for extra work.
- (11) Only on the recommendation of a general practitioner after consultation may a patient visit a specialist, excepting for the pediatrician, the oculist, the gynecologist and for venereal treatment.
- (12) Medical students are also subjected to strict political reliability control; students are organized into "study circles" for the purpose of political indoctrination, must pass Marxism-Leninism examinations at the end of each term to be permitted to continue the next term, and must serve on labor brigades during each term to secure admission to the next term.
- (13) For example, because of an acute shortage of pediatricians, graduate physicians having six months to one year's clinical experience are being trained in pediatrics for only six months and assigned to regional hospitals as chief physicians (primarius) of various pediatric wards.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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(11) A recent general order (prior to March 1951) required all physicians as well as all the nurses to work in surgery wards for at least two months in order to familiarize themselves with the treatment of abdominal wounds and fractures. [REDACTED] the main purpose of this measure is to create as large a group of medical personnel as possible capable of treating war casualties. Furthermore, all physicians were required to attend blood transfusion courses prior to April 1951. 25X1X

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